

HB 688 -- EMPLOYING EX-OFFENDERS TAX CREDIT

SPONSOR: McCaherty

Beginning January 1, 2018, this bill authorizes a taxpayer to receive a tax credit equal to 50% of the amount of any donation made to an organization that works with ex-offenders to reduce recidivism. Tax credits are non-refundable but may be carried forward for four years. A taxpayer must donate at least \$100 to receive the credit.

The Department of Corrections is charged with determining whether an organization is qualified. To be qualified, an organization must be a valid 501(c)(3) organization that has reduced recidivism in the group of ex-offenders it has worked with by at least 70%. The director of the department must establish a procedure for taxpayers to determine which organizations are qualified and notify the Department of Revenue of any taxpayer wishing to claim a credit. The Department of Revenue may authorize up to \$2 million in tax credits under this section.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.

This bill is similar to HB 2759 (2016) and SCS SB 1137 (2016).